

S-E-C-R-E-T

AGENDA

Meeting No. 53

Research, Development and Production Review Board / MEETING NO. 53

1 February 1956

Room 2035 "I" Bldg. - 1430 Hours

I. Old Business:

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of Meeting #52.

II. New Business:

1. Review of the Research and Development Program.
2. Presentation of report on field tests and discussion of requirement for production of additional units.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

S-E-C-R-E-T

MINUTES

Research, Development and Production Review Board

- I. Meeting #53 of the Research, Development and Production Review Board was held in the OC Conference Room at 1430 hours on 1 February 1956. The following persons were in attendance:



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- II. Under Agenda Item I, Old Business:

The Minutes of Meeting #52 were reviewed and approved by the Board.

- III. Under Agenda Item II, New Business:

1. The Engineering Division representatives gave a run-down on field tests conducted in October over the path from [redacted] to [redacted] and in November over the path from [redacted] to [redacted]. It was pointed out in these discussions that as far as reliability was concerned in transmitting by the [redacted] system, a high degree was obtained. When compared to a radio teletype circuit at a given time, the [redacted] system does not exhibit any higher degree of reliability, but over a period of time by virtue of [redacted] capability of passing greater volumes of traffic, a much higher overall reliability is obtained than that from an ordinary teletype system. The Engineering Division proposed that the existing equipments be returned to the contractor for refurbishing and that they then be installed on a link between [redacted]. The Board concurred in this proposal.

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The Engineering Division was also requested to submit a recommendation as to the number of additional units of the present equipment that should be procured and to obtain the approval of the members for this proposal on an ad hoc basis .

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ACTION

The O&T representatives requested that we explore with the contractor the possibility of using the FRT-5 or 207-A transmitter as well as the 231 D for the [] system. It was also recommended by O&T that the Engineering Division explore the value, if any, of utilizing the existing R-390 receiver in place of the one incorporated in the existing equipment.

The Engineering Division indicated that a discussion had been held with the contractor and NSA looking toward the addition to the SPIT system of a high-speed on line cryptographic system and a high-speed printer, so that full advantage could be taken of [] high traffic transmission capabilities.

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2. [] Field Tests. The Chairman requested information as to the status of the [] field tests recommended by the Board action of 2 November 1955. The O&T representatives stated that because of the shortage of manpower, nothing had been done on this project. The Engineering representatives informed the Board that equipment at [] had been moved into the main operating room and that approximately two or three weeks additional time would be required to have it in working order.

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ACTION

The Chief Engineer indicated that a member of the Plant Engineering Branch would be going to [] shortly on a TDY basis in connection with some other work and suggested that this man might carry a [] unit with him and initiate transmissions from the [] sight. It was pointed out that this should be a fairly representative test, since the individual concerned has had no previous training or experience with [] equipment. The Engineer will also brief Operations personnel [] on the [] equipment and arrange for them to pass live traffic on the equipment. It was agreed that this proposal would be accepted and that the details would be worked out between O&T Division and the Engineering Division.

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3. The Executive Officer introduced a discussion on [] [] He stated that there had been prepared in the Office of Communications a letter directed to the DD/P Materiel Board which in effect divorced the Office of Communications from any further work in this field as regards (a) the ultimate beacon and (b) the [] beacon. The Office of Communications would continue some testing on the ARA-25, URC-11 system. Additionally, the Office of Communications would accept the responsibility for the control issue, training, and maintenance in regard to any [] The Executive Officer stated that the Agency had recently received a letter from [] requesting a policy decision in the field of [] with particular attention to the matter of compatibility [] systems, and its effect on the [] [] The Executive Officer felt that until such a policy had been determined, in view of the Office of Communications relationship with [] in this field, that the present letter to the DD/P Materiel Board should not go forward.

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25X1 After considerable discussion on the whole matter [redacted]
25X1 including a questioning of the need for [redacted] at all, it appeared
25X1 to be the feeling of the Board that if the interim [redacted] program
could be concluded very shortly that the Office of Communications
would be willing to take on the development of an effective, compatible,
25X1 [redacted] system providing the DD/P would prepare a realistic and firm
set of operational requirements.

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ACTION

25X1 It was finally concluded that the proposed letter to the DD/P
Materiel Board should be rewritten by the Engineering Division and
should indicate that further discussions with the appropriate people
should be held in this matter before coming to any final determination.

25X1 5. It was noted that the current review of R&D Projects has
not yet been completed by the Board.

IV. The meeting adjourned at 1630 hours. The next meeting of the Ideas
and Requirements Panel will be held on 15 February and the next Regular
Board meeting will be 7 March 1956.

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 Distribution:

Members and those in attendance
listed in Paragraph I
R&D Internal Projects
R&D External Projects

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